



# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Min. De Meza present as Dutch Queen Beatrix inaugurates GATE All eyes are on Aruba's upcoming Green II Conference



**Her Royal Highness Queen Beatrix inaugurates GATE**

In keeping with Aruba's intent on going Green, the Minister of Finance, Utilities and Energy is currently in the Netherlands along with his advisers, Frank Hoevertsz and Freddy Rafine on a working visit. His agenda is full of scheduled encounters with representatives of important companies.

The Minister has already met with Carrensol "Caribbean Energy Solutions." This institution provides support to companies who generate their own energy. They help companies to optimize their work and make their process more sustainable and efficient by making wise use of new technology.

"Carrensol" focuses primarily on Caribbean islands that produce their own water and electricity. Minister de Meza also met with the Director of Energie Beheer Nederland where they were able to discuss various matters of interest. Other very significant meetings were held with the General Director of GasUnie whose involvement in Aruba in the coming years will be very

significant. Likewise, a meeting with the director of TNO was of utmost importance in view of the soon establishment of the TNO center of research here on Aruba.

Last Friday Her Royal Highness Queen Beatrix officially opened the Gate Terminal of GasUnie on the Maasvlakte in Rotterdam. GATE is the Gas Access to Europe program, which is GasUnie's gas distribution project.

Minister de Meza, was in attendance for the ceremony along with Minister Plenipotentiary of Aruba and Dutch Minister Verhagen. They were part of the delegation to accompany the Queen. The Aruban delegation was transported to the scene by a special bus, while the Queen was flown in by helicopter.

The GATE project is the first important terminal for LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) in Holland and was developed by GasUnie NV and Royal Vopak. The reason for developing a gas terminal as an independent distribution point for energy to European countries is because of the growing demand for natural gas. The production of gas is diminishing in the Northwest

of Europe.

This project in Rotterdam is a huge investment of the Netherlands which makes Holland a center for gas to Europe. In addition to Holland itself, other countries like England, Spain and Norway will be among the first to make use of this gas center of distribution. Royal Vopak will be the company involved in constructing large tanks and scaffolding.

The Aruban Minister's visit at this occasion is in concordance with the government's agenda on energy. De Meza, reportedly is exerting great energy on trying to reduce Aruba's dependance on fossil fuels. The government is intent on reducing their dependance on fossil fuels as a means to clean up the environment as well as to reduce the cost of the production of water and electricity.

Aruba is currently working diligently to switch over to using liquefied natural gas (LNG) at the Valero Refinery and WEB. It is expected that by 2013 Aruba will be able to have a sustainable supply of LNG. As a matter of comparison, the pipelines for gas between Valero and WEB cover a distance of 10 kilometers, whereas the pipelines for the distribution of gas for GasUnie cover a distance of over 40.000 kilometers.

During the inauguration ceremony of the GATE project, Minister de Meza was pleased to learn from practically everyone with whom he spoke that they all believe that Aruba's gas project is a rock solid investment. The 800 invited guests from various parts of the world was pleased to see Aruba in attendance and showed great interest in Aruba.



**The Aruban delegation**

The Director of Utilities Aruba NV, Frank Hoevertsz was interviewed. Many questions about Aruba and our cooperation with GasUnie was raised.

All in all it can be concluded that the trip to the

Netherlands for this purpose was very successful. Next month top executives of GasUnie will be in Aruba for the mega Green Aruba Conference II to be held in the prestigious Renaissance Convention Center here.

### A conversation with President of Parliament Paul Croes



**President of Parliament, Mr. Paul Croes shares his observations of the purpose of the legislative body and what they accomplish daily; particularly as this year it celebrates its silver anniversary of being established, along with Aruba's status as an autonomously ruled entity within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. "It is a step into realizing its maturity." (See story inside on pg 8)**



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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## US hikers: Iran took us as 'hostages'



NEW YORK, (AFP) - Two US hikers accused Iran Sunday of using them as "hostages" in its power struggle with the West and described hearing the anguished cries of fellow inmates being beaten in Tehran's Evin prison.

Speaking at a press confer-

ence in New York hours after landing back safely on American soil following their release to Oman on Wednesday, Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal laid bare the extent of their harrowing two-year ordeal in Iran.

"We had to go on hunger strike repeatedly just to receive letters from our loved ones," said Fattal. "Many

times, too many times, we heard the screams of other prisoners being beaten and there was nothing we could do to help them. "It was clear to us from the very beginning that we were hostages. This is the most accurate term because, despite certain knowledge of our innocence, Iran has always tied our case to its political disputes with the US."

The pair, both 29, were arrested with Sarah Shourd near the mountainous border with Iraq on July 31, 2009. All three have always maintained they are innocent of spying and simply strayed across the border into Iran.

"Sarah, Josh and I have experienced a taste of the Iranian regime's brutality," said Bauer. "We have been held in almost total isolation from the world and everything we

love, stripped of our rights and freedom. "The only explanation for our prolonged detention is the 32 years of mutual hostility between America and Iran. We were convicted of espionage because we are American. It's that simple," he continued.

"The two court sessions we attended were a total sham. They were made up of ridiculous lies that depicted us as being involved in an elaborate American-Israeli conspiracy to undermine Iran."

Shourd, a teacher, writer and women's rights activist, met Bauer, a fluent Arabic-speaking freelance journalist, while helping to organize demonstrations in the US against the war in Iraq. The two moved to Damascus together in 2008.

Fattal is an environmentalist and teacher. He traveled in 2009 to Damascus. Bauer proposed to Shourd during a rare moment shared in captivity, presenting her with an engagement ring painstakingly weaved from the threads of his shirt.

Thrust into the media spotlight after three days with their families in Oman, Bauer made more political points than Fattal, who applauded the Iranian authorities for finally making the right decision about the case.

"The irony is that Sarah, Josh and I oppose US policies towards Iran which perpetuate this hostility," said Bauer.

After using the platform to urge Iran to free all "prisoners of conscience," he also criticized the US government, saying the pair's Iranian guards often defended their conditions by referencing Guantanamo Bay and CIA prisons.

## Mexican journalist decapitated in border town

NUEVO LAREDO, (AFP) - The decapitated body of a female journalist was found on week-end in northeastern Mexico near the US border, along with a message attributed to an organized crime gang, state prosecutors said.

The victim found in the city of Nuevo Laredo was identified as Maria Elizabeth Macias, the 39-year-old chief editor of the newspaper Primera Hora, prosecutors in Tamaulipas state said in a statement.

Next to the body was a note "attributed to a criminal group," the statement said, without offering further details.

Two weeks ago, the half-naked bloodstained bodies of a man and a woman were found hanging from a bridge in Nuevo Laredo, along with messages threatening those who report drug violence on social networks.

"That will happen to all of them," read the text of one message signed with the letter 'Z' usually associated with the Zetas drug gang.

The Zetas -- who started as ex-elite army officers working as hitmen for the Gulf cartel in the 1990s -- are blamed for many violent attacks in Tamaulipas.

A split between the Zetas and the Gulf cartel is blamed for some of the country's most gruesome drug violence in recent years.

Mexico is one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists and reporters have been silenced by threats or violence in some areas.

Before the murder of Macias, 10 journalists had been killed in the country since the start of the year, according to a tally by Reporters without Borders.

## Piranha problem takes bite out of Brazilian beach fun



(AFP) - Authorities in a state in Brazil's northeast are scrambling to take the fright and the bite off the beach after piranhas sunk their teeth into about 100 beachgoers, UOL Noticias reported.

The problem -- rather fearsome given piranhas' horror-movie teeth and ability to sink them into human flesh -- has been the biggest at the main beach area in Piaui state; authorities said they need to act fast to reduce a piranha overpopulation situation.

Last weekend, at least 100 bathers were treated at the hospital in Jose de Freitas not far from Terezina, Piaui's capital, after being bitten on the heels or toes at the local beach.

"Since they have no predators, piranhas have started attacking people on the beach," said Romildo Mafra, a local environment official.

Environmental officials so far have added tilapia to the piranhas' local food chain hoping to quell some of the predators' hunger.

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**Int'l News provider:**  
**Agence France**  
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Printed by  
**Diario N.V.**

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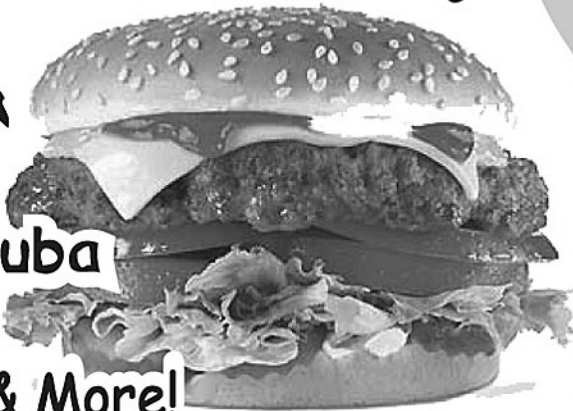
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# Fostering Creative Capabilities in Small Island Economies

**Prof. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson**



## Arts, Creativity and Economics

It seems like a strange combination. But this is exactly what the Microcosm art exhibition at the Residence of the Dutch Ambassador in Washington, D.C intended to capture during the launch of the exhibition. Within the Microcosm, the National Council for Innovation and Competitiveness of Aruba (NCIC) had an opportunity to present an exposition of its vision during a private session at the Ambassador's residence in the US. The attendees were from a broad spectrum ranging from the Governor of Aruba, Minister Michelle Hooyboer-

Winklaar, ambassadors, representatives of the Caribbean, consultants, Cultural leaders, artists, American Planning Association, the Organization of American States, and IDB (Inter-American Development Bank).

Prof. Dr. Ryan Peterson, President of the NCIC explains that the mission was twofold. "On the one hand to describe how Aruba is focusing on innovation and competitiveness, and what the role of NCIC is herein, e.g., the R&D function, the policy advisory role, the educational role. We presented our vision and mission, and also some of the work we have done so far.

Secondly, I also had to make the link from Aruba to the rest of the Caribbean, showing why and how innovation is fundamental to the sustainability of the Caribbean, and particularly, our island economies".

Peterson explains that as a 'innovation economist', his focus is on sustainability in a dynamic environment within the microcosm of island economies. "My focus is on spotting those 'invisible' trends; trends that we do not see today, but which become apparent in the future. During his presentation, Peterson outlined the role of the Tourism industry over the past three decades, and also discussed the role of the Knowledge economy.

Interestingly enough, he discussed why nor Tourism, or the Knowledge economy provide a sustainable direction for future development. "I discussed why knowledge by itself is important, but not sufficient for sustainability in a dynamic environment. It is the use, and more importantly, the creative use of knowledge that drives development in a dynamic environment. This is the essence of a knowledge-driven entrepreneurial environment in which new knowledge is applied in creative ways to cre-

ate new systems, processes, products, services, communities, governments, and build countries and nations", Peterson explains.

## Creative Economy

And it is here that we find Aruba (and much of the Caribbean) at the cross-roads and dawning of a Creative Economy. While many associate the Creative Economy with arts, crafts, and culture, the Creative Economy spans well into other the creative industries and a creative society. These include Visual arts, Performing arts, Music, Publishing, New Media, Film/Fashion, Design. More importantly, Peterson emphasizes that the Creative Economy also includes Architecture, Advertising, Branding, R&D, Recreation, Leisure, and new technologies including 'green' (clean) and 'blue'(social) technologies.

"The essence is the creative use of knowledge (informal and formal) to devise new solutions. This is not limited to only arts and crafts, but includes any type of product and/or service in a dynamic and challenging environment, particularly when resources are limited, and resourcefulness and resilience are imperative. When one combines our

Tourism industry with the "silent" growth of local businesses and investments in the area of design, photography, marketing, advertising, green technologies, social media, web-design, etc, etc, over the past ten years, it is not difficult to see that the next decade will be about developing a Creative Economy, and fostering creative capabilities and innovation abilities".

With a global economic value of over \$600 billion, growing at an annual rate of more than 15%, the Creative Economy and Society holds the future for Caribbean island economies. And for at least 3 reasons: (1) it doesn't deplete (natural) resources, it actually adds through the use of knowledge and raw talent; (2) it builds on the diversity of island economies, it provides character and identity to our communities, thereby building social capital; (3) the international demand for creative products and services is growing faster than any other industry (despite recessions). "Any (small) economy that plays its creative cards well, will take the edge and lead in this new normal. Not only have the rules of the game changed, the game itself has changed...", Peterson concludes.



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## Happy Birthday Elizabeth Brosnihan

Palm Beach – The birthday of Elizabeth Brosnihan, from Leicester Massachusetts, was celebrated in grand style at the Plaza Club, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, as she received a beautiful cake, hugs and kisses from

her resort family members: Silvio, Rudy & Tasha. It was actually a double celebration as Elizabeth also received a special honoring from the Aruba Tourism Authority, for traveling to Aruba since 1985, for twenty-six consecu-

utive years!! Marouska Heyliger, representing the tourism authority thanked Elizabeth for her support of the people and their island and wished her a happy 75th, on her most-favorite place on earth.



Elizabeth reports that the wonderful people of Aruba, the beautiful beaches, the perfect weather, the superb dining and the total relaxation

she always finds, have been bringing her back all these years and she vowed to continue to travel for the next 75 years!

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## International Peace Day Commemorated on Aruba with the help of Generous Sponsors



Recently, about one-hundred students from two elementary schools, Pieter Boer in San Nicolas and Pius X in Oranjestad, were guests of Fundacion Respeta Bida, Semper Corda, at the Wilhelmina Park in the gardens surrounding the Anne Frank statue.

The purpose of the gathering was to educate students on the significance of peace and to make them part of a constructive community that builds a better future for Aruba.

Foundation President Diana Pieters-Gonzalez, and her board members put together an excellent program including poetry readings about peace, songs with the theme of peace, the planting of an olive tree, and the making of paper doves, both symbols of peace, and a visit to Aruba's Prime Minister with letters suggesting positive changes in the community in the name of coexistence, tolerance and harmony. The students all received commemorative t-shirts, and enjoyed refreshments at the end of the

morning at the Renaissance Convention Center.

The following companies made it all possible: Aruba Bank with a donation, Renaissance Convention Center, with the use of the facility, EMCO NV with the printed foundation buttons donation, Subway N.V. with lunch boxes and soft drinks, May-

belline Arends Croes and her Melange singers with their musical tribute to peace, Munye Oduber Winklaar and her students, with their dramatic reading about peace, Flora Market with soil for planting, Marketing Plus NV, and all volunteers without whom the activity would not have been possible.


### The Jewish community of Aruba invites visitors to Rosh HaShanah Services

*One of the tenets of Jewish faith is the Repair of Our Broken World (Tikkun Olam). Every Jew must become involved in this daunting task. Awareness of one's weaknesses and offenses against God and our fellow man must be accompanied by corrective action to make this a better world, with kinder and more sensitive human beings. That is the meaning of the Jewish High Holidays.*

The Jewish Community of Aruba, located at A. Lacle Blvd. # 2, cordially invites visitors to our island to the 5772 Rosh HaShanah religious services that Rabbi Mario Gurevich will be leading on **Wednesday, September 28, at 7:00 P.M.**

For more information please call 582 3272 or 582 1235. You can also send an e-mail to [jcommaruba@gmail.com](mailto:jcommaruba@gmail.com)






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## SCI-TECH

# Facebook changes inadvertently allow users to see who defriended them

Assuming that a user has already enabled the new Timeline profile page on Facebook, there's a feature built into the Timeline that allows to users to view how many friends were added each year. Go to the Timeline page and choose a year on the right side of the page. Scroll through the posts and locate the "Friends" box. Within the Timeline, Facebook groups actions that occurred over the course of the year including new friendships, photos uploaded, events attended and new likes. On the "Friends" box, click the "Made X New Friends" link and this should load a pop-up window that lists all friendships created during that year.

Scroll through the list and anyone that terminated the friendship will appear with an "Add Friend" button rather than a "Friends" button. However, the "Add

Friend" could also mean that the user terminated the friendship. Users that deleted their profiles at some point over the years won't appear on this list and users that have been blocked won't appear here as well. For instance, an ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend won't appear within this list if the blocking feature was enabled to completely cut out that person from a user's social network.

The Timeline change to the profile page represents a massive alteration to the original Facebook design. The new design allows users to select both a banner picture to go across the front of the profile as well as the identical profile picture. Users can scroll through the profile timeline by month or by year. Information that was listed on the info link of the profile page is now within the Timeline design as well. For in-

stance, users can scroll through the years and view previous jobs. Users can also

assign photos to previous jobs, both on the start and the end dates. Timeline should be

available to all Facebook users within the next two weeks.

## Rocksmith video game to be launched on Oct. 18



Chris Lee, one of the Rocksmith project members, plays the video game during a demonstration event in San Francisco, California. Rocksmith is an upcoming music video game slated for release on 18 October 2011 produced by Ubisoft similar to Guitar Hero, Rock Band, Power Gig: Rise of the SixString and Offbeat Guitarist, and based on the technology in Guitar Rising. The game's main focus is the unique feature that allows players to plug in a real guitar and play. It will be released on three platforms: Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360. Ubisoft has announced the game will contain songs by bands such as Interpol, The Black Keys, The Rolling Stones, Nirvana, The XX, The Animals, and David Bowie. There will be 50 songs on the game's soundtrack.

## CO2 storage law falls through in Germany

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany's parliament recently blocked a law allowing the storage of carbon dioxide underground, as Europe's top economy wrangles over energy policy following Japan's nuclear disaster.

The government must now come up with a revised bill to conform with a direc-

tive from the European Union on the technology.

CCS aims to snare CO2 as it is pumped out from fossil-fuel burning plants, liquefy it and bury it underground, usually in disused natural gas storage chambers, to stop it escaping into the atmosphere and causing climate change.

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## Health & Living

# San Francisco tests its limits on public nudism



**Naturist George Davis hangs out in the Castro district of San Francisco.**

SAN FRANCISCO, (AFP) - "No shoes, no shirt, no service" is a sign you see in a lot of US stores. In San Francisco, restaurateurs might soon have to add "no pants" to the list, as a row flares over nudism in the vibrant heart of the city's gay community.

On a sunny September day, Woody Miller strolls through the district, known as Castro. He's tall and fit, with a long grey beard and heavy silver nose ring -- and wearing nothing

more than sneakers, a baseball cap and a watch.

"I go naked on a nice day because I like the feel of the sun and the air on my skin," says Miller, 55, who is one of the city's growing number of public nudists, popularly known as Naked Guys.

"There's nothing obscene about the human body," he adds. "The belief that there is something that's taught. It's just another form of prejudice."

Home to the gay rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s, the Castro -- where sex shops coexist with trendy cafes and bars -- is still one of the most free-thinking neighborhoods in this famously liberal city.

But even the Castro has its limits, says Scott Wiener, a 14-year resident of the neighborhood and its newly elected Democratic member of the San Francisco city council.

He is proposing legislation that would require nudists in San Francisco to cover public benches or seats before sitting down on them, and to cover themselves altogether before entering a restaurant.

Violators would be fined \$100 for a first offense, \$200 for a second, and \$1,000 or more -- plus a year in jail -- a third time around.

The Castro is "ground zero" when it comes to public nudity, and particularly Jane Warner Plaza, an enclosed seating area at the throbbing intersection of Castro and Market streets, the councillor said.

"In the last few years it's become more obnoxious and in your face," he said. They hang out and pick up a lot of the seats there, and sit down without covering. It's unsanitary."

Miller thinks Wiener's initiative is unnecessary.

"Putting something down before you sit down? I think that's common etiquette," he said. "You don't need to legislate that. It's right there in the 'nudist handbook'. You don't go anywhere without your towel."

California state law prohibits exposing one's genitals "with lewd intent" -- but the way the law is applied in San Francisco, so long as no-one is obviously aroused, what's lewd is in the eye of the beholder.

Members of the public can perform a citizen's arrest, but police won't arrest nudists absent a complaint.

Miller's disdain for Wiener's proposal is shared by another Castro nudist, writer and businessman George Davis, 65, who in 2007 ran for mayor on a platform of making clothing optional in Golden Gate Park.

## Cholesterol: Top 5 foods to lower your numbers.

A few simple tweaks to your diet -- like these -- may be enough to lower your cholesterol to a healthy level and help you stay off medications.

1. Oatmeal, oat bran and high-fiber foods. Oatmeal contains soluble fiber, which reduces your low-density lipoprotein (LDL), the "bad" cholesterol.

2. Fish and omega-3 fatty acids. Doctors recommend eating at least two servings of fish a week.

The highest levels of omega-3 fatty acids are in: Mackerel - Lake trout - Herring - Sardines - Albacore tuna - Salmon - Halibut (You should bake or grill the fish to avoid adding unhealthy fats)

3. Walnuts, almonds and other nuts. Walnuts, almonds and other nuts can reduce blood cholesterol. All nuts are high in calories, so a handful will do.

4. Olive oil. The cholesterol-lowering effects of olive oil are even greater if you choose extra-virgin olive oil, meaning the oil is less processed and contains more heart-healthy antioxidants.

5. Foods with added plant sterols or stanols. Margarines, orange juice and yogurt drinks with added plant sterols can help reduce LDL cholesterol by more than 10 percent. The amount of daily plant sterols needed for results is at least 2 grams.

Other changes to your diet

For any of these foods to provide their benefit, you need to make other changes to your diet and lifestyle.

Cut back on the cholesterol and total fat -- especially saturated and trans fats -- that you eat. Saturated fats, like those in meat, full-fat dairy products and some oils, raise your total cholesterol. Trans fats, which are sometimes found in margarines and store-bought cookies, crackers and cakes, are particularly bad for your cholesterol levels. Trans fats raise low-density lipoprotein (LDL), the "bad" cholesterol, and lower high-density lipoprotein (HDL), the "good" cholesterol.



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# Understanding the importance of Parliament

## A conversation with President of Parliament Paul Croes

The September 2009 elections resulted in a complete change of government for Aruba after 8 years, under the administration of Prime Minister Mike Eman, leader of the AVP Party. AVP won 12 seats in the island's 21-seat parliament, with their opposition, MEP, claiming 8 and Andin Bikker, leader of PDR winning a single seat.

Just over one year ago, Paul Croes of AVP was selected to the role of Parliamentary President. 2009 was Paul's first time seeking office, and he is satisfied by the fact he garnered votes not only in his "constituency" of Noord, but every district of Aruba. Prior to joining the AVP ticket he was an advisor in Aruba's Foreign Office.

Parliament convened for sessions 2011-2012 on September 13. After his first year discharging his duties as President of Parliament, Mr. Croes feels it would be beneficial to share his observances of the purpose of the legislative body and what they accomplish daily; particularly as this year it celebrates its silver anniversary of being established, along with Aruba's status as an autonomously ruled entity within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. "It is a step into realizing its maturity."

"Many do not realize that Aruba's Parliament operates beyond the public sessions read or heard about in the media," explains Mr. Croes.

"However, the daily work of parliamentarians is far more extensive than those few, sometimes dramatic, occasions, and should not be judged only by them." Elected officials meet several times a day during Central, Permanent and Extraordinary commissions; Parliament had 110 sessions during the 2010-2011 parliamentary year, we had 40 Central meetings, and 31 Public Hearings, and several extraordinary sessions. I estimate more than 200 meetings over the past year," he continued, "which far surpasses previous years, as we have reactivated a number of commissions which were, for all intentions, dormant. This parliament is a very active and dynamic body when you examine all that has been accomplished over the past year."

These revitalized commis-



President of Parliament Paul Croes

sions are intended to clear contention before the final Public Hearings when the Parliament will vote on the issues. The Justice Commission, Financial and Economic Affairs, Utilities and Government NV's, and Education met on an average of 7 to 13 sessions to consider issues, when they had rarely convened previously. In the context of the busy schedule of parliamentarians, this helps voters understand their commitment, as meetings often take up to 2 hours out of the regular agenda. "The substantial work is being done in these commissions," is Paul's opinion, "sometimes in public meetings things deteriorate and go in a direction I consider undesirable, which creates an incorrect impression on the public. I hope to establish methods to go beyond those incidents and so educate islanders to truly understand the role of the Parliament within the society."

Some methods to be deployed which will acquaint islanders with the workings of the legislative branch would be a congress on October 25th regarding this issue, along with the digitalization of Parliament, having its website updated, and the likely establishment within the next 2 months of an "Aruban C-Span" where is-

landers can watch the process taking place real time. Mr. Croes welcomes the implementation of broadcasting the sessions, as he feels this will motivate contentious parties to modify their behavior and

act accordingly.

"I don't believe our constituents want to see their elected officials misbehave. As a member of parliament they are dignitaries; they

have an honorable position, and I believe those that elected us will want to see their officials behave accordingly."

Similar to media around the world, the sensational is what makes headlines here. Administrators feel that for islanders to be able to observe the entire process, where positive action far surpasses the incidents that media at present prefers to spotlight, would be beneficial for the community and help them fully understand the workings of their government.

Methods to make Parliament more efficient and productive are in the works, as a goal of the present lawmakers is to see at least 40 laws considered and voted upon per year than the present average of 25. Paul expressed he would certainly like to streamline this process and reduce the amount of wasteful debate, which "is not always that easy, we are trying to go in that direction. We should reconsider our request for meetings, as there is duplication of issues, which takes up a great deal of our time unnecessarily."

Continue on page 9

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## Understanding the importance of Parliament...

Continued from pg 8



### Aruba's Parliament building

Much of the time on the floor is spent with the making of motions. "Often there will be 10-15 motions made during Public Hearings," he observes. "These are 'wishes' for Parliament for the government. How do we empower these motions? How do we give them more impact? How do we not take up our time with inconsequential motions? It is better to make fewer motions with more substance; sometimes they are made one year to the next, literally copy/pasted from prior years. They could be presented and discussed among the factions during preliminary meetings with compromise and agreement reached beforehand. Also we should stick to the issues and not go off on tangents, limit the number of speakers to experts who will advise us with authority."

Paul Croes graduated from the University of Amsterdam with a degree in Political Science, though a good portion of his career he has functioned as a diplomat, which serves him well as President of Parliament. "I try to remain neutral and open to all parties as part of my position," he asserts. "After a year in the Presidency I understand my role much better, and I am determined to control the floor and keep the speakers to the internationally established rules of conduct during the parliamentary

process. I believe all the factions desire this."

He acknowledges his own personal political positions, and that they should not come into play when administering over debate. "There are occasions

when some may observe me sitting off to the side, leaving the Vice President of Parliament, Chris Dammers to preside over the meeting. This is because it is an issue about which I feel very strongly, something close to my heart, so I consider it necessary to remove myself from the regulatory position to maintain my neutrality."

In conclusion to this "introductory session" Paul acknowledged, "My role as President of Parliament is, by our constitution, that I repre-

sent the entire Parliament when in public; whether at social gatherings or traveling abroad, one does not represent any single political party. Secondly, it is my job to guide the meetings by international proper rules of conduct as they are written; this is my bible in administering the floor. Thirdly, some may not realize, my role is strengthening relations and acting as a liaison to improve communications with important "Colleagues of State," such as Aruba's Governor, Advisory Board and branches of the constitution, as well as other parliaments in the region and within the kingdom. It is important to encourage and facilitate these relations."

He concluded with the hope this interview would clarify the many misconceptions that exist about the role of Aruba's Parliament and its President.

By Rosalie Klein

## Saudi king gives women right to vote

RIYADH (AFP) - Saudi King Abdullah on Sunday granted women the right to vote and run in municipal elections, in a historic first for the ultra-conservative country where women are subjected to many restrictions.

"Starting with the next term, women will have the right to run in municipal elections and to choose candidates, according to Islamic principles," he said in speech to the Shura Council carried live on state television.

Women's rights activists have long fought to gain the right to vote in the Gulf kingdom, which applies a strict version of Sunni Islam and bans women from driving or travelling without the consent of a male guardian.

Manal al-Sharif, a 32-year-old computer security consultant who was arrested on May 22 and detained for

10 days after posting on YouTube a video of herself driving around the eastern city of Khobar, told AFP the king's decision as "a historic and courageous one."

"The king is a reformist," she said of the 86-year-old monarch, whose country was spared a wave of protests rocking the region by which autocratic regimes in Tunisia and Egypt were toppled.

The king's decision means that women will be able to take part in the elections that are to be held in four years, as the next vote is due to take place on Thursday and nominations are already closed.

In addition to participating in the only public polls in the country, women would have the right to join the all-appointed Shura (consultative) Council, he said in the address opening the assembly's new term.

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## COMICS



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## MASCULINE BEGINNINGS

## ACROSS

1. Fearless Fossdick's creator
5. Christian of "Velvet Goldmine"
9. Fell
12. Jamaican fruit
13. Wilde's homeland
14. Judge in the news in '95
15. Protested economically
17. Scratch
18. Model builder's purchases
19. All steamed up
21. Muddle
24. Track shape

## 25. Yawning open

26. Property manager
29. Flossie Bobbsey's sis
30. European trade org.
31. "\_\_\_ Only Live Twice"
32. Dignify
35. Serious
37. Actor Palladino of "ER"
38. Big name in little trains
39. Part of a Peruvian postman's load
41. Bonnie Bedelia, to Macaulay Culkin

## 42. Larter of "Heroes"

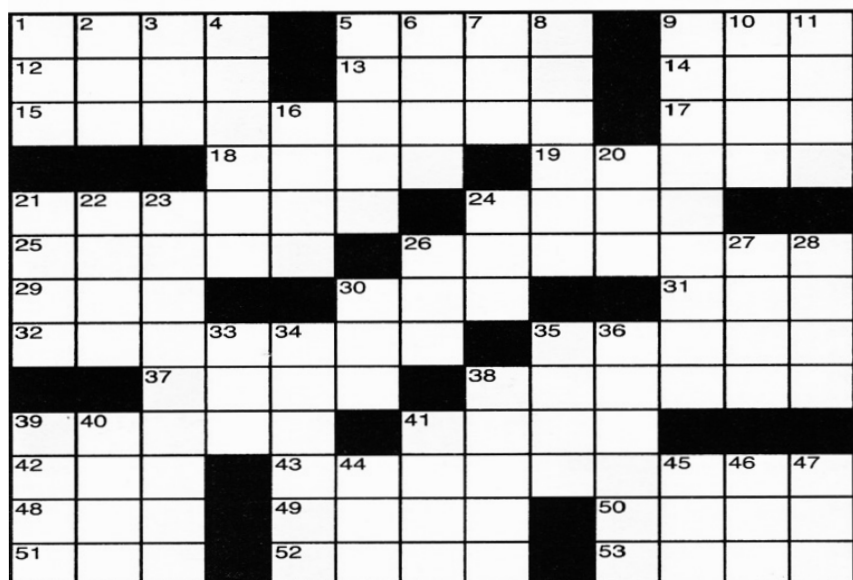
43. Thrill seekers?
48. Distressing letters
49. River to Donegal Bay
50. Oath of surprise
51. Hesitate
52. Stag
53. Indicates assent

## DOWN

1. Lion baby
2. "Long \_\_\_ and Far Away"
3. Work hard
4. Ford F-150, e.g.
5. The Divine Miss M
6. Part of MFA

## 7. Emulate a rug?

8. Salad ingredient
9. Of Everest's range
10. Georgia, to Georges
11. Sported
16. French river
20. Like a crunchy carrot
21. Spoiler
22. Richard of "A Summer Place"
23. Idiosyncrasy
24. Like aspirin, as a drug: abbr.
26. Look
27. Move about
28. Insult avenger's option
30. Moose's kin
33. Supper morsel
34. Prejudiced
35. Cleans cotton
36. Worm-eaten
38. German pistol
39. Bargaining tool
40. Amaryllis plant
41. Comedienne Meara
44. Mined find
45. "The \_\_\_ and the Id" (Freud)
46. X-ray unit
47. Militant campus gp.



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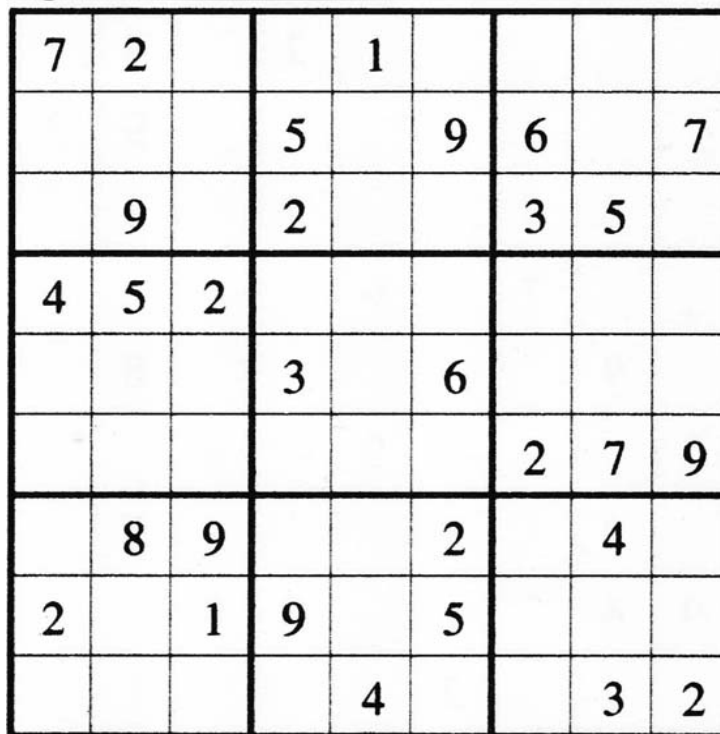
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 8 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



## Finance

# White House sees October vote on US jobs bil

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - US President Barack Obama's administration is expecting Congress to vote on his sweeping jobs bill in October, a senior advisor said Sunday, dismissing talk of discord over the bill among Democrats.

Obama has encountered stiff resistance from Republicans who make no secret of their desire to bounce him out of the White House next year, but opposition lawmakers, as well as those in his own Democratic party, are under pressure to look beyond the political war and focus on creating jobs to tamp down the stubbornly high unemployment rate.

"This economy is far too weak and needs a jump-start, so we expect there will be a vote on the entire American Jobs Act at some point in October in the Senate," White House senior advisor David Plouffe told CNN's "State of the Union" as he made a round of the Sunday talk shows to push Obama's plan.

Obama's \$447 billion plan was unveiled earlier this month in an attempt to kick-

start efforts to combat 9.1 percent unemployment in the world's biggest economy and restore trust in his economic leadership.

The centerpiece of the proposal is a deeper-than-expected \$240 billion payroll tax cut for employers and employees, meant to spur consumer demand and encourage firms to hire new workers.

The network reported earlier this week that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has not moved forward on scheduling a vote, with the Democrat saying the Senate floor was "pretty well jammed now."

Obama has been pressing for immediate action on his plan for the past two weeks. Congress has been contending with major trade legislation, as well as a battle over disaster assistance and renewed clashes over government funding.

When pressed on whether the Democrats were ready to bring the bill forward, Plouffe told ABC: "No, no. We expect to have a vote on the American Jobs Act in October."

## Week of trials ahead for both Greece and the euro

ATHENS, (AFP) - Greece and the euro head for a week of trials from today as European and IMF experts return to Athens for a fiscal audit that will decide if the debt-hit country can escape default next month.

EU heavyweight Germany will meanwhile hold a key vote Thursday on reforming a permanent European Union stability fund to enable it to engage in debt restructuring, a fallback the eurozone looks increasingly set to need.

That's two days after Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou visits Berlin for talks with German Chancellor

Angela Merkel as speculation mounts that a new EU rescue of Athens crafted in July will need to be revised.

Additional commitment to a EU stability fund has been criticised by many in the ruling German coalition.

But opposition parties are likely to support the move, and German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble says Berlin has no objections to speeding up its launch.

The 27-nation European Union -- the Fund's largest shareholder -- meanwhile pledged to "do whatever is necessary to resolve the euro-area sovereign debt crisis and ensure the financial stability of the euro-area as a whole and its member states," the board said.



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## IMF to increase resources to more than \$1 trillion: report



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde speaks during a press conference at the IMF Headquarters on September 22, in Washington, DC.

BERLIN, (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund may be hoping to increase its financial resources from \$940 billion to at least \$1.3 trillion, according to a newspaper report out Monday.

German daily the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said two "models" were currently being examined to up the IMF's resources, without stating its source.

It follows comments on its lending capacity by managing director Christine Lagarde in an action plan released Saturday.

"Our lending capacity of almost \$400 billion looks comfortable today but pales in comparison with the potential financing needs of vulnerable countries and crisis bystanders," Lagarde said.

"It will be useful to discuss, soon, the needs and contingency options," she added.

A November 2010 agreement doubled the permanent contributions, or quotas, of the IMF's member states.

But before the quota reform can take effect, a sufficient number of national parliaments must ratify it. About 40 have done so, of the 113 needed.

## SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer



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## Conrad Murray: Jackson's doctor faces manslaughter trial



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Michael Jackson fans around the world will be watching Tuesday, as the singer's doctor Conrad Murray finally goes on trial over the self-declared King of Pop's shock death two years ago, aged 50.

On the eve of the twice-delayed trial in Los Angeles, seven men and five women were selected to decide Murray's fate on involuntary

manslaughter charges over the star's death on June 25, 2009.

The jurors aged 32 to 57 include six whites, five Latinos and one African-American, according to details of jury selection questionnaires released after they were chosen Friday and cited by the TMZ entertainment news website.

Half indicated they had ever been a fan of Jackson or the Jackson family.

Murray is accused of giving Jackson an overdose of the powerful sedative Propofol to help alleviate the star's insomnia during a stay at a rented estate in the posh Holmby Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles while rehearsing for a series of London comeback shows.

The doctor has never denied administering the drug -- typically used as an anesthetic during surgery -- to Jackson, but denies having "abandoned

his patient" at the fatal moment.

His lawyer Ed Chernoff is expected to argue that the world-famous "Thriller" singer, addicted to sedatives and desperate for sleep, administered more of the drug himself while Murray was out of the room.

The trial will be televised live, but judge Michael Pastor promised the jury that "at no time will jurors be photographed or filmed or otherwise recorded."

Some fans complain that Caribbean-born Murray, who was being paid \$150,000 a month by Jackson at the time of his death, faces only four years in jail. He has been free on \$75,000 bail since being charged in February 2010.



**MILAN: A model displays a creation as part of Dolce & Gabbana Spring-Summer 2012 ready-to-wear collection on September 25, 2011 during the Milan's women fashion week.**  
AFP PHOTO

## Nirvana's 'Nevermind' turns 20

PARIS, (AFP) - Twenty years ago, a naked baby diving after a dollar bill turned the rock world upside down, and Nirvana's "Nevermind", the record immortalised by that image, became the soundtrack for a generation.

"Nevermind"'s release in late September 1991 also sucked Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain into a whirlwind that he would not get out of alive.

Two decades on, Universal is marking the anniversary with the release today of a remastered box set of the album, complete with bonus tracks and demos.

When the album came out, Nirvana was a minor punk-rock band, having released a first album "Bleach" on the Sub Pop indie label to a small audience.

Back in 1991, the rock world was dominated by "hair metal", a genre defined by the permed hairdos and long guitar solos of bands like Guns



N'Roses.

Nirvana's new label Geffen was caught off guard by the runaway success of "Nevermind", spurred by an enthusiastic MTV airing the video of "Smells Like Teen Spirit" virtually on a loop.

The record company initially ordered 40,000 copies of the album. One million were sold in the first six weeks.

To keep pace with demand, Geffen was forced to delay other releases to free up space on its production lines. "Nevermind" went on to sell 30 million copies worldwide.

Generation X, the millions of youths who had grown up in the shadow of the baby-boomers, unhappy with the cut-and-thrust values of the 1980s but facing uncertain economic times themselves, had suddenly found a voice.

"Nevermind" came along at exactly the right time," writes Michael Azerrad, in "Come as you are: The story of Nirvana."

"This was music by and for a whole new group of young people who had been overlooked, ignored or condescended to."

"Kurt was the soul of the band. On stage you could feel his energy, you could share it. It wasn't just a good time, it was more than that."

But Kurt Cobain would soon feel trapped by the sudden and colossal public exposure that success brought -- and was especially pained by the tabloid tracking of him and his wife the singer Courtney Love.

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## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with



town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only

construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management de-



the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260

a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an



immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality

partment.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

## Discover the unique taste of Middle Eastern "fast food" at Yalla Yalla



A charming place to watch the world go by

Middle Eastern cuisine has its devotees, as it is very tasty and exotic, without being too spicy. Yalla Yalla recently opened its doors in the South Beach Center in Palm Beach, and if you have never tried the dishes unique to that region of the world, you are in for a treat.

Yalla Yalla literally means "fast," as these are the sort of dishes those from the region will enjoy when they want to grab a quick meal. The menu is more than reasonably priced, with a generous portion of tender Beef Shish Kabab or Shrimp Kabab, for those with a taste for seafood, costing only \$14.50.

A hefty serving of Lamb Shoarma is only \$12; Chicken Shoarma \$8, and the portions are big enough to share. Classic Middle Eastern side dishes such as Tabouleh and Hummus are served with freshly made pita bread; great for starters or a late night snack.

Yalla Yalla sports a lovely open air terrace, perfect for people watching, and is attached to the South Beach Lounge, where their singular



Beef Shish Kabab

snacks are also served.

In the mood for something a little more gourmet and interesting for dinner that won't ruin your budget? Yalla Yalla has what you are looking for: a true dining adventure in charming surroundings and delicious food that is more than a little different from the staid old menu. Dinner is served from 6:00 PM until 1:00 AM nightly.

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Lamb Shoarma



# Last-gasp Europe win Solheim Cup thriller



Europe's Azahara Munoz of Spain (R) holds the Solheim Cup alongside Anna Nordqvist (L) during the closing ceremony

DUNSANY (AFP) - Europe regained the Solheim Cup in thrilling fashion with a last gasp 15-13 victory over the USA at Killeen Castle on Sunday.

It all came down to the last three singles matches, and they all went in Europe's favour with Azahara Munoz clinching the vital point in the final match with a one hole win over Angela Stanford.

In the second last singles, Caroline Hedwall, two down two to play against Ryann O'Toole, won the last two holes for a vital half point.

Suzann Pettersen had started the fightback.

One down with three to play against Michelle Wie, she pulled out a final hole win.

The world No.2 birdied the final three holes, holing from eight feet at the last.

It was a first ever Solheim singles win for the 30-year-old Norwegian, and a bitter

defeat for Wie.

For Alison Nicholas's European team, the 7-5 singles score meant it was a fourth win from 12 contests -- but first since 2003 -- and they will go to Colorado Golf Club in two years' time hoping to win in America for the first time.

"My team played with

such heart and passion. The rookies were fantastic and the experienced players have done so well. They are all champions," said Nicholas.

"This is my proudest moment ever. The players had such grit and I thank everyone of them. I can hardly believe it - it is amazing. A huge team effort."

## Makau sets new world record, Gebrselassie flops



Patrick Makau from Kenya crosses the finish line to win the 38th Berlin Marathon in Berlin, Germany

BERLIN (AFP) - Kenya's Patrick Makau set a new world record in the marathon here on Sunday winning the Berlin Marathon in an official time of 2hr 03min 38sec.

The 26-year-old defending champion smashed the old mark of 2hr 03:59 set by Ethiopian legend Haile Gebrselassie in the same race in 2008.

Gebrselassie had a torrid

time failing to finish, just as he did in New York last November, after being prominent up to the 35km mark.

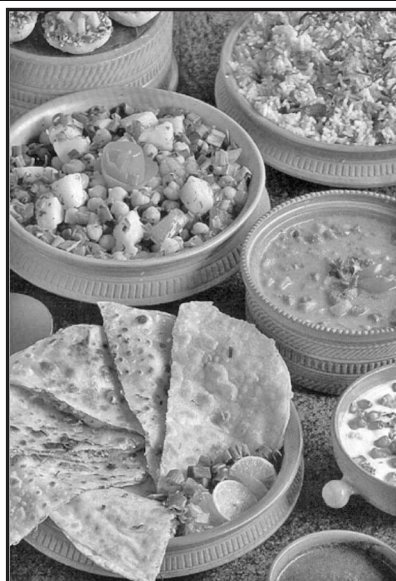
Makau led home a Kenyan 1-2-3 with one of the six designated pacemakers for the event Stephen Kwelio Chemlany taking second in 2hr 07:55 while Edwin Kimaiyo was third finishing in 2hr 09:50.

"It is the most beautiful day of my career, it is super to beat Haile one of my heroes and, if God so wishes it, I will be Olympic champion next year," said Makau.

Makau upped the pace dramatically at the 27km mark which left Gebrselassie trailing.

While Gebrselassie's race ended in tears another star name from the sport Paula Radcliffe enjoyed a more successful day out as she finished third in the women's race but crucially achieved the qualifying time for the Olympics.

Kenya's Florence Kiplagat won the race in only her second marathon while Germany's Irina Mikitenko, winner here in 2008, was second.



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## Windies stun England with 25-run win



est total in a Twenty20 international.

On a turning pitch, Mathurin opened the attack and bowled Craig Kieswetter, Ravi Bopara and Jonny Bairstow in quick succession to give the tourists a stranglehold on the game.

Ben Stokes hit some big shots in making 31 but was trapped in front by leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo and in a much-improved West Indies fielding performance Samit Patel was run out by a direct hit from Bishoo.

Joss Buttler and Scott Borthwick were both run out and with them went England's last hopes of a successful run chase and when Jade Dernbach was last man out he was the fourth run out victim of the innings.

This was England's first defeat in any form of the game since July 3, when they lost the third one-day international against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

LONDON (AFP) - Spinner Garey Mathurin enjoyed a memorable debut as he inspired the West Indies to a surprise 25-run win over England in the second Twenty20 international at the Oval on Sunday.

The 28-year-old left-armer from St Lucia took 3-9 in his four overs as England crumbled in pursuit of the West Indies' total of 113-5 and were bowled out for 88, their low-

## Sharapova admits Japan fears

TOKYO (AFP) - World number two Maria Sharapova on Sunday admitted to concerns about playing in the Pan Pacific Open in Japan after the March earthquake-tsunami sparked the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

But the popular Russian said that the presence of seven of the world's top 10 women's players in Tokyo

should serve as "a big statement" of support for Japan in a time of crisis.

"There was definitely a lot of talk before the tournament, a lot of players having concerns whether it's safe to come here," Sharapova said.

"I know that a few actually didn't come here because they were a little bit scared."

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## Cardinals move nearer Braves in playoff fight



St. Louis Cardinals' Rafael Furcal (R) is congratulated by teammate Albert Pujols, left, after his solo home run against the Chicago Cubs

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Atlanta's lead over St. Louis in the fight for a National League playoff berth shrank to one game on Sunday after the Braves lost 3-0 at Washington, the 10th defeat in their past 15 games.

With only three days remaining in the six-month Major League Baseball season, the Braves and Cardinals are fighting to join Philadelphia, Milwaukee and Arizona in the National League playoffs.

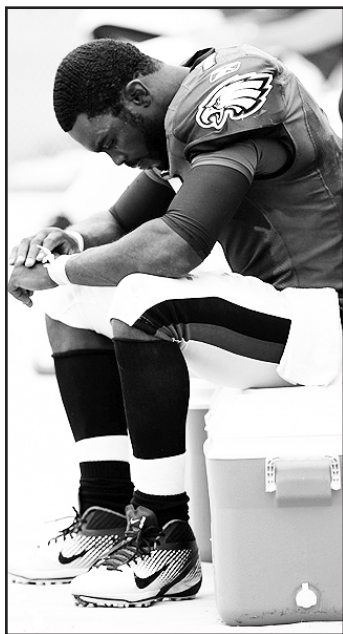
## Eagles' Vick suffers broken right hand

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Philadelphia quarterback Michael Vick, who battled back from concussion to start, suffered a broken right hand in the Eagles' 29-16 loss to the New York Giants on Sunday.

Vick, who signed a six-year deal worth \$100 million with the Eagles last month, suffered concussion last week in a loss at Atlanta but passed fitness tests during the week and was able to start against the Giants.

Vick went to the locker room early in the fourth quarter for X-rays on his right hand, returned briefly to make a few plays, then gave way for good to reserve Mike Kafka.

The Eagles rallied from a two-touchdown deficit to seize a 16-14 lead behind Vick before the injury. The Eagles fell to 1-2 while the Giants improved to 2-1 and



snapped a six-game losing streak in games against Philadelphia.

Before departing, Vick completed 16-of-23 passes for 176 yards with one interception and ran for 31 yards.

The Braves fell to 89-70 after Washington's Wilson Ramos smacked a solo home run in the fourth inning and Michael Morse belted a two-run homer in the seventh to produce all the scoring the Nationals needed.

Atlanta's four top batters went a combined 0-for-16 at the plate against Washington, with five strikeouts.

The Cardinals improved to 88-71 with a 3-2 home victory over the Chicago Cubs, Rafael Furcal's eighth-inning homer providing the winning margin.

Atlanta will end the season with three home games against the Philadelphia Phillies, who have the best record in Major League Baseball. The Cardinals conclude the campaign with three games at Houston, which has the worst record in the major leagues.

## Ex-US Olympic coach faces sex claims - report

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Two women have said they were victims of sexual abuse as teens from Don Peters, the 1984 US women's Olympic gymnastics coach, the Orange County Register reported Sunday.

Peters, who built the SCATS gymnastics club in Huntington Beach into a major force in American gymnastics, could face a lifetime ban from the sport by USA Gymnastics if the allegations are found to be accurate.

Doe Yamashiro, a former US national team gymnast who trained with Peters in the 1980s, told the Register that Peters fondled her when she was 16 and had sex with her when she was 17.

Another SCATS gymnast, who asked the newspaper not to reveal her identity, said Peters had sex with her when she was 18 despite knowing she had been sexually abused by a parent.

Linda McNamara, a former SCATS assistant director at SCATS, told the Register that Peters admitted in the early 1990s to having had sex with three teen gymnasts, including Yamashiro and the other woman who spoke to the newspaper.

Yamashiro and McNamara told the Register that USA Gymnastics is investigating the accusations after both reported them to the national governing body of the sport.

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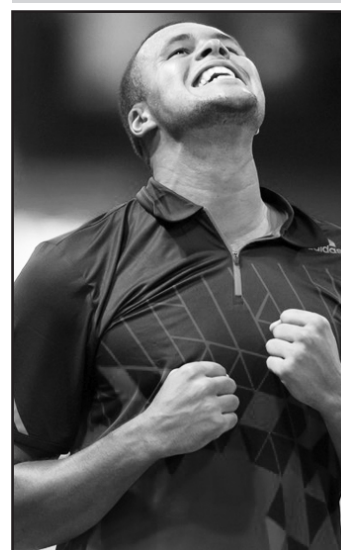
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## Tsonga wins in Metz, breaks two-year title drought



Tsonga wins in Metz,

breaks two-year title drought

METZ, September 25, 2011 (AFP) - French world number 10 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga won his first title in two years on Sunday when he defeated Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 in the Metz ATP final.

Tsonga, a finalist at Rotterdam and Queen's this year, last took a tour trophy in Tokyo in 2009.

Ljubicic, the world number 29, was bidding to win his 11th title. His last triumph came in 2010, when he made a magical run at Indian Wells to claim his first Masters.

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## Jellyfish stings end attempt at Cuba-Florida swim



MIAMI (AFP) - Veteran US endurance swimmer Diana Nyad quit her historic attempt to cross the shark-infested waters from Cuba to Florida on Sunday after medics warned she had suffered dangerous jellyfish stings.

The 62-year-old, who was seeking to become the first person to make the 103-mile (165-kilometer) swim across the Florida Straits without a shark cage, had spent more than 40 hours in the water and completed 67 miles before ending her bid at 11:00 am (1500 GMT).

And yet it wasn't the threat of the predators that ended -- or at least put on hold -- her lifelong dream that she first tried at age 28, and then again last month. It was two Portuguese men-of-war, jellyfish whose stings had released po-

tentially harmful toxins into Nyad's body.

"The medical team said I should not go another two nights in the water and risk additional likely man-of-war stings which could have a long-term cumulative effect on my body," Nyad said.

"But for each of us, isn't life about determining your own finish line?" she was quoted as saying.

"This journey has always been about reaching your own other shore no matter what it is, and that dream continues."

Nyad completed two-thirds of the journey before pulling out.

Nyad failed on two previous bids, in 1978 and again last month, in her quest to swim across the treacherous Florida Straits from Havana to Key West, Florida.

Nyad set an open sea record by swimming from the Bahamas to the Florida Keys -- a journey that is the same distance as the Cuba-Florida swim, but a feat she described as much less dangerous.

The swimmer set a record for circling the island of Manhattan at age 50, clocking in at seven hours and 57 minutes.

## Rays trim Red Sox edge in wild-card race

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Boston Red Sox saw their lead over Tampa Bay in the race for the final American League baseball playoff berth trimmed to only half a game on Sunday after a 6-2 loss to the arch-rival New York Yankees.

Yankees pitcher A.J. Burnett baffled Boston batters and Jorge Posada blasted a two-run home run to power the Yankees, who like Detroit and Texas already have secured spots in Major League Baseball's American League playoffs.

The Red Sox, fell to 88-70 while AL East division rival

Tampa Bay improved to 88-71 with a 5-2 victory at Toronto.

The Red Sox fell to 5-18 in September, on track for their worst record in the season's final month since 1926. Boston owned a nine-game edge on Tampa Bay in the wild-card playoff race just three weeks ago.

Boston's loss also helped the Los Angeles Angels, who are within reach of passing both teams to make the playoffs in the final three days of the season.

Evan Longoria homered twice for Tampa Bay in the victory at Toronto.

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